

April 2024

# THE MESSENGER

April 21

Pastor Greg's  
First Sunday

ELC Fundraiser  
At  
La Hacienda

April 15

Midland Choir in  
Worship

April 14

A few months ago, about the same time I was talking with the Call Committee and Council of First Lutheran, our son, Levi, got a puppy. Clutch is a black bernedoodle with a few patches of tan on his legs and face. He's about halfway to his final weight of 50-60 pounds and still quite uncoordinated. He's just a puppy yet.



There are two things about getting a puppy: 1) it's going to be the best trained puppy ever, and 2) people always talk to puppies in the same childish sing-song voice they use to talk to babies.

Levi wanted to train Clutch to jingle the bells hanging from the back door to signal to us it was time to go outside. It didn't quite work out. Clutch had different ideas. He wasn't interested in bells. Instead, Clutch would bring us a shoe. At first we thought he was being naughty and chewing up shoes. But no. Clutch knew that we needed to put on our shoes to take him outside. He was just making it easier and faster for us to take him out. Clever dog!

So...are we training him or is he training us? Or are we just learning how each other works?

In a few weeks I'll be moving to Fremont and settling in my new position at FLC. I have to learn how FLC runs and the way you've always done things. And you all have to learn how I lead and the way I do things.

That's how I imagine the transition at FLC. I'm not going to train you and you're not going to train me. We're going to learn from and with each other. We'll get to know each other over coffee or coffee cake. You'll say, "Go Big Red" and I'll say, "Go Pack Go!"

My family and I are excited to get to know the FLC family and the rhythms of the church. We've bought a house in Fremont and hopefully, by the time you read this, we'll have sold our house here in Indee and then it'll be time for us to 'go pack go'.

I'll see you in a few weeks.

May the Resurrection of Christ renew your heart and soul with the new growth of life and hope.


*Pastor Greg*


## Worship

### Sunday Worship at 8:45 & 10:45 am

Holy Communion served on the first and third Sundays

**April 14** - The Midland University choir will provide special music at both services. To welcome them, we are planning a brunch for them and all Midland alumni between services. Please watch for ways you can help with the meal or call the church office to offer your help.

 **April 21** - Be a part of the "Sweet" Welcome we are planning for Pastor Greg's first Sunday with us! Enjoy some of his favorite sweet treats between services.

 **May 4** - High School Senior Recognition at the 10:45 service.

## Discipleship



**WOW (Women of the Word)** - The WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study will meet at church on Wednesday, April 10, at 9:30 am in the Heritage Room. Norma Moxness will lead the new study: *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. New faces always welcome!

**Faith Study Group** - Faith Study Group will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 11, at 7:00 pm in the conference room. Linda Doll will lead the lesson.

**Chick Flicks:** On Tuesday, April 2, the Chick Flicks will meet in the Youth Room and watch a movie and share in fellowship and discussion. All women are invited to attend.

**Men's Study Group:** Join this group on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the Heritage Room. The coffee is always on. The group is studying the book of Matthew.

**Sunday Morning Study:** Kris Lindgren is leading a study on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Heritage Room. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. Jesus encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implication of what he was saying and doing. Nooma is an invitation to search, question and join the discussion. Come as your schedule allows.

**Midlands Conference Spring Gathering** will be held at Salem Lutheran Church, Fontanelle, on Saturday, May 4. Cost is \$20. All women are invited to attend. Contact Eileen Thornburg, Wendy Olson or Carol Bohling if you are interested.

### Funeral Pall

First Lutheran now has a funeral pall for cremation urns. A pall is a cloth that covers the casket at a funeral representing that we are covered in Christ. The casket pall we had was worn and a new one was purchased with memorial funds. Thank you to Sharon Strong for resizing the new pall and making this one out of the extra fabric.



Palm Sunday Worship

# Mission and Outreach

See the many gifts God has given through His people.

**Mission Collections:** Thank you for your donations to The Bridge during Lent. Final totals will be available next month.

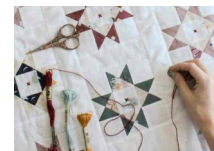
**April's Collection will be for Rebuilding Together.** We are joining with Rebuilding Together to collect loose change. This project started from loose coins found in some furniture and we are going to add our coins to their collection. **In April, bring your loose change** to the church and watch our collection grow. Rebuilding Together along with their corporate and community partners, transform the lives of low-income homeowners by improving the safety and health of their homes. Cash, check and online gifts will also be accepted for this campaign.



**Mobile Banquet:** The next meal for the Mobile Banquet will be served on April 11 in the parking lot at Bell Field School. Help is needed to donate food items, help pack meals, drive the bus (no CDL needed), help serve meals, and clean the kitchen. Items needed this month are: individual bags of Sun Chips, hamburger buns (individually wrapped) and cookies/bars (individually wrapped). Please consider donating socks for any size of feet to be offered at the meal. Donated items should be brought to the church. Sign up from the Ministry Opportunities button on our website or call the church office to offer your help.



**The Quilters:** Thanks to everyone who has sewn quilt tops for Lutheran World Relief. The three van loads of fabric received last year have all been cut and sewn. Now the finishing stage begins. Willing hands are needed to do this. Put Wednesday, April 17, on your calendar. Come at 1:00 pm to tie and pin.



Cotton fabric and sheets of any size are needed. Bring them to the church office.

**2024 Food Truck Festival:** Save the Date! The Food Truck Festival is returning again this year to the church parking lot on Thursday, July 25. If you have any contact information for or have a favorite food truck, please let the office know and we will see if they are available for the date. There is a great community event and the vendors each give a portion of their proceeds to the Fremont Area United Way.

**Lawn Care:** We have had some moisture and some warm temperatures. That means the grass will be growing soon. We have two opportunities for you to help with lawn care here at First Lutheran. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, fill out a yellow card in worship and put it in the offering basket, sign up online or call the church office.



**Walk-behind Mowers:** Thanks to those who have volunteered already. We would love to have a few more on this year's mowing rotation. We hope to have enough that you only mow 2 or 3 times April—October. The mowing/trimming takes about an hour and a half. The church provides the mower, gas, and trimmer. We would like the job to be done on Friday or Saturday so the church looks nice on Sundays.

**Zero-Turn Mowers:** First Lutheran needs volunteers willing and able to operate zero-turn mowers provided by the church to mow the outer field areas around the church every other week beginning April 11. This will take 1 person approximately 6 hours or 2 people 3 hours. We prefer it be done Thursday, Friday, or Saturday each week so things look nice on Sunday. This saves the church \$600.

**Additional Volunteers:** Besides mowers, we are also in need of summer volunteers to help edge and assist with landscape clean-up as needed.

**Shoes for LFS:** Looking ahead, we will be collecting shoes for children newborn—age 6 again in May. Start watching now for shoe sales. Shoes for any season are needed at the Boutique at the Center for Healthy Families here in Fremont.





## Children and Youth

### Important Youth Programming Dates:

#### WAM Kids (Worship Arts Ministry for Kids)

Wednesdays 4:30-6:00 pm

Look for them in worship on April 21

#### Confirmation

Wednesdays 7-8 pm

April 3 - Fellowship Event

April 24 - Confirmation Review and End-of-Year party

#### First Lutheran Youth (FLYs) - 7:30-9:00 pm

April 3 - Destination Unknown

April 24 - Senior Send-off (last FLY night)

#### KidsFirst

Sundays 9:45-10:40am

Collecting coins for Rebuilding Together



### ELC FUNDRAISER



**MONDAY  
APRIL  
15**

11:00 am - 9:30 pm  
Dine in or Carry Out



### Early Learning Center News

Happy Spring! Much is going on here at preschool and we are excited to share it with you!

Spring is here and excitement is in the air as we continue to have a wonderful year at the ELC! This month we are focusing on weather, butterflies, exercise and the zoo. The month of April is all about Spring! We will be talking about the seasons changing. We will be doing projects and activities related to Spring along with taking walks around the FLC campus to see the changes that comes with the change of season.

In March, the ELC celebrated Dr. Suess' birthday. Great costumes were worn by kids and staff. The ELC also had an art show. Each class made a project and their artwork was on display for the congregation to see.

Thanks for those who participated in the recent ELC fundraiser. A new rocking chair was purchased with the proceeds.



## Council Highlights - March

- First Lutheran hosted a youth group from Fargo over the week of March 10 – the group donated money to First Lutheran in thanks for hosting them.
- Pastor Greg's first Sunday is planned for April 21.
- First Lutheran is looking at increasing parking spaces for mobility-impaired members of the community.

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Fey, Secretary of FLC Council

\*\* Full minutes are available upon request

## Monthly Financial Report

	Feb Actual	Feb Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Prior YTD
Pledged Giving	\$65,969.89	\$60,000.00	\$425,000.00	\$469,781.97	\$382,431.43
General Income	\$68,886.73	\$62,726.66	\$449,325.04	\$508,353.49	\$406,221.76
Mission Income	\$11,454.24	\$4,004.16	\$27,525.04	\$64,023.61	\$29,710.15
Expenses	\$75,518.90	\$78,877.50	\$500,618.00	\$468,136.25	\$450,387.42
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$4,822.07	\$(12,146.68)	\$(23,767.92)	\$104,240.85	\$(14,455.51)
Building Fund Contributions	\$5,745.00			\$25,562.67	\$71,154.68
Build Fund Balance	\$23,792.28				

With pledged giving \$6k over budget, the Rejoice expense share, and expenses under budget, February ended \$17K better than budgeted. What a blessing! There is a \$104K profit YTD but a deficit is still projected for the fiscal year of less than \$30K. Building Fund contributions continue build to help offset costs of large unexpected repairs that occur as the building ages and to have for deductible coverage as needed. Thanks to all who give of their time, talent, and treasure that contribute to the mission of First Lutheran Church. May God bless each of you. ~ Wendy Grosse, Administrator



**Targeted Giving...** (as of 2/29/2024) We want to give people of FLC the opportunity to give in a *targeted* way around their particular interests and passion, as well as the needs of our mission and ministry. The following categories have primarily existed in our Memorial and Special Gift Account, but we want you to be aware of these different funds on an on-going basis. Your financial support in these *targeted* areas will bring critical support to the ministry of our congregation! Thank you for the many ways that you give!

Worship/Music	\$7,419.61	Bible Camp Scholarship	\$6,426.67	Children's WAM	\$604.09
Technology	\$3,332.41	Good Samaritan	\$2,790.46	Spoudazo	\$4,561.16
Church Home	\$7,642.58	Radio Broadcast	\$4,451.00	Zoe!	\$3,293.07
Building Maint.	\$23,792.28	Prayer Shawl	\$1,556.97	ELC Tuition Assistance	
KidsFirst	\$2,933.58	Quilt Ministry	\$4,124.76		\$2,040.21
First Lutheran Youth	\$11,008.54				

# first lutheran church **ENDOWMENT**

# Planning...Giving...Growing...

You have finally decided to “Get-To-It” and begin your estate planning. One of the first steps in estate planning is to ask yourself, “What is my motivation or what is it that I want to accomplish?” For example, it may be to honor your family or friends, leave a legacy to make a lasting difference, donate to organizations or causes you supported in the past, or to establish opportunities for others such as scholarships. All of this will be spelled out in your “Last Will and Testament”.

When you give a gift to the First Lutheran Endowment Fund your dollars are invested in perpetuity to generate an annual earnings stream that grows over time. This creates a gift that continues to give year after year to support and expand the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church. For example, our children and student ministries have greatly benefitted from the Endowment’s support.

How do I distinguish a gift to the First Lutheran Endowment from a donation to First Lutheran Church? This past year, the Endowment Board and your church council worked together to develop a large gift policy for the church. Unrestricted gifts with a value less than five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) may have the acceptance and use decisions managed by the Lead Pastor and Administrator in accordance with the guidelines of this policy. Unrestricted gifts with value equal to or greater than five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall have the acceptance and use decisions recommended by the Congregation Council and approved by the Council. Ten percent (10%) of the gift will be used at the Congregation Council’s discretion, ninety percent (90%) will be directed to the Endowment Fund.

You may also direct your gift directly to the FLC Endowment Fund. There are many ways to structure a gift as spelled out in your will or living trust, including designating a certain asset, a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to go to FLC. We will discuss some of these options in upcoming newsletters. Consult your financial advisor about what options will best fit your plans.

So you can see, planning for how you want your assets to be distributed is one of the most important aspects of the estate planning process.

The FLC Endowment Board

Barry Benson, Brian Brodd, Chris Coffman, Jeremy Hansen, Wendy Olson, Steve Pike and Kent Speicher.

## Remembering in Prayer

**Remember to let the church office know if you are facing a health concern or will be in the hospital so someone can be in contact with you. If you request, the prayer chain will also be activated. It is also helpful to our FirstCare ministry if you let us know about someone who could use a caring call.**

**Prayers of healing** for Dick Divis, Colleen Dilley, Carter Sintek

**Prayers of peace** for:

- Leonard Nielsen and family on the loss of his wife Carol Nielsen.
- JoAnne Jessen on the loss of her sister Donna Kennedy.
- Joy Horn on the loss of her sister Shirley Wells.
- family and friends of VonDeen Wilson.
- Jack & Lyn Robart on the loss of his sister Kathleen Shurigar.
- family and friends of Beulah Larsen.
- Kristen & Matt Harms on the loss of her mother Ruth Brown.

*Our thoughts  
And prayers  
Are with you.*

**Baptism:**

March 3 - **Duke James Benal** Parents: James & Lexy Benal